

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01029 151754Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
PM-05 DODE-00 NEAE-00 /089 W
-----106117 151759Z /50

O R 150940Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6178
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1029

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PORG, IZ, AF
SUBJECT: IRAQI DILEMMA IN THE HORN

REF STATE 121120

1. IN THE COURSE OF ROUTINE CALL ON DIRECTOR OF MFAS FIRST
INTL DIVISION (ZAHAWI), CONVERSATION TOUCHED ON SUBJECT OF
VP MAROUFS VISIT TO CUBA, PROVIDING REASONABLE POINT OF
DEPARTURE FOR LOW-KEY DISCUSSIONS OF CUBAN/SOVIET INVOLVEMENT
IN HORN.

2. I BRIEFLY MENTIONED OUR AWARENESS OF GROWING CONCERN IN MANY
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ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT AND THEN DREW ON
REFTTEL TO RELAY USG POSITION. ZAHAWI LISTENED CAREFULLY, MADE
A FEW NOTES (AS HE DID THROUGHOUT MEETING) AND AS SOON AS
I WAS FINISHED HE CHANGED SUBJECT TO IRARELI IN TRANSIGENCE AS
KEY ISSUE IN ME REGION. HORN IS A PERIPHERAL ISSUE, HE SAID,
AND SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP AGAIN.

3. WE HAVE NOW MADE LOW-KEY MATTER-OF-FACT PRESENTATION OF OUR VIEWS, AS PER REFTTEL. ZAHAWI IS USUALLY WILLING TO DISCUSS CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, BUT HE STAYED AWAY FROM THIS ONE, INDICATING SOME GOI SENSITIVITY AS EXPECTED. BASED ON HIS REACTION, OR LACK OF IT, ANY FURTHER INPUTS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE INVOLVEMENT OF THIRD PARTIES, AS SUGGESTED IN STATE 119870.

4. NATURE AND EXTENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES ON OUR LIST (KUWAIT, IRAN, YUGOSLAVIA, SPAIN, BRAZIL, ETC.) AND GOI SHOULD PERMIT SUBJECT OF HORN TO BE RAISED AS PART OF ONGOING DISCUSSIONS HERE. (FRENCH AMBASSADOR, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS ENHANCED HIGH-LEVEL ACCESS AS RESULT OF GOFS PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL.) WHILE IRAQIS WILL PROBABLY RESIST FORMAL DISCUSSION AT NAC IN HAVANA, CONFERENCE SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE-ON-ONE INPUTS AT LEVEL HIGHER THAN ZAHAWI. PECK

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